

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

CALIFORNIA DIVISION

980 Ninth Street, Suite 400

Sacramento, CA 95814-2724

October 29, 2003

IN REPLY REFER TO

HDA-CA

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Mr. Jeff Morales, Director
California Department of Transportation
1120 N Street
Sacramento, California 95814

Attention: Federal Resources Office, Room 3500
For Fardad Falakfarsa, Chief

Dear Mr. Morales:

04-1
SUBJECT: Emergency Relief (CA~~03-2~~) Notice Of Intent

This letter is to acknowledge receipt of your letter of intent dated October 28, 2003 to request Emergency Relief (ER) funds, authorized under Sections 120 and 125 of Title 23, U.S. Code, for the repair of damage to Federal-aid highways. We acknowledge the Governors Proclamation that indicates October 21, 2003 as the initial date of the wildfire event (FHWA CA~~03-2~~, FEMA-1498-DR). Region-wide fires, that continue, caused transportation infrastructure damage within the following counties: San Bernardino, Ventura, Los Angeles, San Diego.

You should proceed with performance of the emergency operations, including emergency repairs, necessary on the Federal-aid highways to restore essential travel, to protect the remaining facilities, to reduce the extent of damage, to begin preliminary engineering comprising surveys, design, and preparation of construction plans, to perform the permanent restoration work required as an associated part of the emergency operations, and to use State forces and/or negotiated equipment rental contracts, as necessary, to perform the work. All Emergency repairs accomplished within 180 days from October 21, 2003, to restore essential travel, to minimize the extent of damage or to protect the remaining facilities may be reimbursed at 100 percent Federal share.

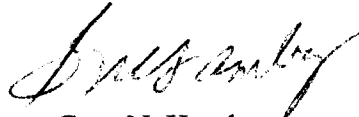
The eligibility of such work to be reimbursed utilizing ER funds will be contingent upon a favorable finding by the FHWA California Division Administrator, on the eligibility of the disaster. The basis for the Administrator's decision will be a field report prepared with the cooperation from this office with estimates of cost to repair and reconstruct the damaged Federal-aid highways and evidence of the widespread extent and intensity of the disaster.

We will be meeting with members of your staff to make arrangements for reviewing the disaster damage and preparing the field report. The field report is to be submitted within three weeks, if possible. If additional time is required, please advise. Following the Field Report, and providing the damage meets established program criteria, all emergency work must be included in an emergency program. The program, when submitted for approval, shall include a detailed listing, including preliminary cost estimates, of the necessary emergency operations identified as emergency opening (EO) and permanent restoration (PR) work.

FHWA representatives will be involved in field reviews and preparation of individual site damage reports (DAFs) for projects not subject to the October 19, 1998 revised ER Program Delegation (See Attachment). In an effort to determine the extent of our involvement, we request that you expeditiously work with the affected local agencies to identify and prepare a District by District listing of sites meeting the four criteria listed in the ER Program Delegation, prior to individual field review and completion of the DAF.

Permanent Restoration (PR) work other than that performed as an incidental part of the Emergency Opening (EO), shall not be performed prior to program approval and authorization by this office. For all sites individually identified as potentially eligible for Federal ER reimbursement, recordkeeping should be adequate to permit audit of costs on a site-by-site basis. If there are questions, please contact Scott McHenry, Program Coordinator, at (916) 498-5854, or scott.mchenry@fhwa.dot.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Gary N. Hamby", written in a cursive style.

Gary N. Hamby
Division Administrator

Enclosure (DMS, S#21252)